Building Public Health Competencies
to Address Health Inequities:
Unique Challenges of Working in the Nexus Between the Social and Ecological Determinants of Health

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COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES TO HEALTH

Complex and urgent problems at the intersection of health, environment, society and economy (Webb et al 2011)

Overcoming the false dichotomy between the ecological and social determinants of health (CPHA Discussion Paper, 2015)

New demands on the public health community

- Increasing calls for the integration of social equity, ecosystem sustainability and participatory processes

How does this link with core competencies in public health?

- to identify, engage with, communicate and manage the multiple determinants of health in an integrated and effective manner, and
- to foster collaborative dialogue that recognises health and wellbeing as intimately linked to social, ecological, cultural and economic dynamics.

Webb et al, (2011) Tools for Thoughtful Action, CJPH
CPHA (2015) Global Change and Public Health: Addressing the Ecological Determinants of Health. CPHA Discussion Paper.

An Equity Lens

- *Through an Equity Lens: A New Look at Environmental Health*, managed by Dr. Karen Rideout, Environmental Health Policy Analyst at the BCCDC (2016);

- **Environmental Health Equity and Justice** (e.g. CEHE; et al);

- Health inequities result from social, economic, or environmental disadvantage, closely tied to the social determinants of health, coupled with ecological dynamics;

- Exposure to different environments, both healthy and unhealthy is influenced by social, economic, geographic, and other factors

- An socio-ecological ('eco-social'?) equity perspective?

Key questions:

1. What are some of the key health equity issues arising in your region and what are examples of how they are being positively addressed within a socio-ecological approach?

2. What are the competencies that public health communities are drawing upon (or should be) to make meaningful contributions to addressing health equity issues that are arising at the socio-ecological interface?